

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1849

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## AN ACT

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “World War I Memorial  
5       and Centennial Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) More than 4,000,000 men and women from  
9       the United States served in uniform in the defense  
10      of liberty during World War I, among them two fu-  
11      ture presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D.  
12      Eisenhower.

13              (2) 2,000,000 individuals from the United  
14      States served overseas during World War I, includ-  
15      ing 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas.

16              (3) The United States suffered 375,000 casual-  
17      ties during World War I.

18              (4) The events of 1914 through 1918 shaped  
19      the world, our country, and the lives of millions of  
20      people in countless ways.

21              (5) The centennial of World War I offers an op-  
22      portunity for people in the United States to learn  
23      about the sacrifices of their predecessors.

24              (6) Commemorative efforts allow people in the  
25      United States to gain a historical understanding of

1 the type of conflicts that cause countries to go to  
2 war and how those conflicts are resolved.

3 (7) Kansas City is home to the Liberty Memo-  
4 rial and America's National World War I Museum  
5 (as so recognized in the Ronald W. Reagan National  
6 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005  
7 (Public Law 108-375)).

8 (8) America's National World War I Museum  
9 seeks—

10 (A) to preserve the history of World War  
11 I; and

12 (B) to educate and enlighten people about  
13 this significant event, the consequences of which  
14 are still with us.

15 (9) Kansas City is home to the national head-  
16 quarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

17 (10) Missouri is the home State of General  
18 John Joseph Pershing, who commanded the Amer-  
19 ican Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World  
20 War I.

21 (11) The Kansas City area is the home of the  
22 Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum.

23 (12) The Dwight David Eisenhower Presi-  
24 dential Library and Museum is located close to Kan-  
25 sas City in the neighboring State of Kansas.

1           (13) There is no nationally recognized memorial  
2 honoring the service of Americans who served in  
3 World War I.

4           (14) In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Mis-  
5 souri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised  
6 more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial  
7 to the service of Americans in World War I. That  
8 fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by  
9 any other city in the United States irrespective of  
10 population and reflected the passion of public opin-  
11 ion about World War I, which had so recently ended.

12          (15) Following the drive, a national architec-  
13 tural competition was held by the American Institute  
14 of Architects for designs for a memorial to the serv-  
15 ice of Americans in World War I, and the competi-  
16 tion yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren  
17 Magonigle.

18          (16) On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000  
19 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the  
20 Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. That  
21 dedication marked the only time in history that the  
22 five allied military leaders; Lieutenant General  
23 Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz  
24 of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, Gen-  
25 eral John J. Pershing of the United States, and Ad-

1       miral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were to-  
2       gether at one place.

3               (17) General Pershing noted at the November  
4       1, 1921, dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas  
5       City, Missouri, are deeply proud of the beautiful me-  
6       morial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gal-  
7       lant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their  
8       sons and daughters who served in our country’s  
9       armed forces during the World War. It symbolized  
10      their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an ap-  
11      preciation which I share, because I know so well how  
12      richly it is merited”.

13              (18) During an Armistice Day ceremony in  
14      1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the begin-  
15      ning of a three-year construction project for the Lib-  
16      erty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone of the  
17      memorial.

18              (19) The 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has  
19      an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who  
20      Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and  
21      Our Country” as well as four stone “Guardian Spir-  
22      its” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and  
23      sacrifice, which rise above the observation deck,  
24      making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all  
25      who served in World War I.

1           (20) During a rededication for the Liberty Me-  
2           morial in 1961, World War I veterans and former  
3           Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-  
4           hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-  
5           minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the  
6           progress that followed.

7           (21) The 106th Congress recognized the Lib-  
8           erty Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.

9           (22) The National World War I Museum is the  
10          only public museum in the United States specifically  
11          dedicated to the history of World War I.

12          (23) The National World War I Museum is  
13          known throughout the world as a major center of  
14          World War I remembrance.

15 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AT THE**  
16 **NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN KANSAS**  
17 **CITY, MISSOURI, AS THE NATIONAL WORLD**  
18 **WAR I MEMORIAL.**

19          The Liberty Memorial at the National World War I  
20          Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is hereby designated  
21          as the “National World War I Memorial”. No Federal  
22          funds may be used for the annual operation or mainte-  
23          nance of such Memorial.

1 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**  
2 **CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-  
4 mission to be known as the World War I Centennial Com-  
5 mission (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

6 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Commission is to  
7 ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World  
8 War I that promotes the values of honor, courage, patriot-  
9 ism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of  
10 these values through the four Guardian Spirits sculpted  
11 on the Liberty Memorial Monument at America’s National  
12 World War I Museum.

13 (c) **DUTIES.**—The Commission shall have the fol-  
14 lowing duties:

15 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs,  
16 projects, and activities to commemorate the centen-  
17 nial of World War I.

18 (2) To encourage private organizations and  
19 State and local governments to organize and partici-  
20 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of  
21 World War I.

22 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities  
23 throughout the United States related to the centen-  
24 nial of World War I.

1           (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collec-  
2           tion and dissemination of information about events  
3           and plans for the centennial of World War I.

4           (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

5           (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-  
6           mission shall be composed of 24 members as follows:

7                   (A) Four members appointed by the  
8                   Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9                   (B) Three members appointed by the mi-  
10                  nority leader of the House of Representatives.

11                  (C) Four members appointed by the Sen-  
12                  ate majority leader.

13                  (D) Three members appointed by the Sen-  
14                  ate minority leader.

15                  (E) Seven members who are broadly rep-  
16                  resentative of the people of the United States  
17                  (including members of the armed services and  
18                  veterans), appointed by the President.

19                  (F) The executive director of the Veterans  
20                  of Foreign Wars of the United States (or the  
21                  director's delegate).

22                  (G) The executive director of the American  
23                  Legion (or the director's delegate).

24                  (H) The president of the Liberty Memorial  
25                  Association, the nonprofit entity responsible for



1           the management of America's National World  
2           War I Museum (or the president's delegate).

3           (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Archivist of  
4           the United States and the Secretary of the Smithso-  
5           nian Institution shall serve in an ex officio capacity  
6           on the Commission to provide advice and informa-  
7           tion to the Commission.

8           (3) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a  
9           member of the Commission under subparagraph (F),  
10          (G), or (H) of paragraph (1) ceases to hold a posi-  
11          tion named in such subparagraph, that member  
12          must resign from the Commission as of the date  
13          that the member ceases to hold that position.

14          (4) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed  
15          for the life of the Commission.

16          (5) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All mem-  
17          bers of the Commission shall be appointed not later  
18          than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
19          Act.

20          (6) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission  
21          shall—

22                  (A) not affect the powers of the Commis-  
23                  sion; and

24                  (B) be filled in the manner in which the  
25                  original appointment was made.

1           (7) PAY.—Members shall not receive compensa-  
2           tion for the performance of their duties on behalf of  
3           the Commission.

4           (8) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall  
5           receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of  
6           subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provi-  
7           sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
8           United States Code.

9           (9) QUORUM.—A majority of members of the  
10          Commission plus one shall constitute a quorum, but  
11          a lesser number may hold hearings.

12          (10) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
13          Commission shall elect the Chairperson and Vice  
14          Chairperson of the Commission by a majority vote of  
15          the members of the Commission.

16          (11) MEETINGS.—

17                (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
18                meet at the call of the Chairperson, except that  
19                the first meeting shall be held before the end of  
20                the 120-day period beginning on the effective  
21                date of this Act.

22                (B) LOCATION.—The Commission shall  
23                hold the first meeting at America's National  
24                World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri,

1           and thereafter shall hold at least one meeting  
2           per year at such location.

3           (e) DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE  
4 COMMISSION; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

5           (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

6                   (A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chairperson of  
7 the Commission shall, in consultation with the  
8 members of the Commission, appoint an execu-  
9 tive director and such other additional per-  
10 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Com-  
11 mission to perform its duties.

12                   (B) PAY.—The executive director and staff  
13 of the Commission may be appointed without  
14 regard to the provisions of title 5, United  
15 States Code, governing appointments in the  
16 competitive service, and may be paid without  
17 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-  
18 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating  
19 to classification and General Schedule pay  
20 rates, except that the rate of pay for the execu-  
21 tive director and other staff may not exceed the  
22 rate payable for level V of the Executive Sched-  
23 ule under section 5316 of such title.

24                   (C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-  
25 ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the non-

1           profit organization which administers America's  
2           National World War I Museum make space  
3           available, the executive director and any addi-  
4           tional personnel appointed under subparagraph  
5           (A) shall work in the building that houses that  
6           museum.

7           (2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Com-  
8           mission may procure temporary and intermittent  
9           services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
10          States Code.

11          (3) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-  
12          quest of the Commission, the head of any Federal  
13          department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable  
14          basis, any personnel of that department or agency to  
15          the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties  
16          under this Act.

17          (f) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

18               (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—For the pur-  
19               pose of carrying out this Act, the Commission may  
20               hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take  
21               testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission  
22               considers appropriate.

23               (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—If  
24               authorized by the Commission, any member or agent

1 of the Commission may take any action which the  
2 Commission is authorized to take by this section.

3 (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commis-  
4 sion shall secure directly from any department or  
5 agency of the United States information necessary  
6 to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon the request  
7 of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of  
8 that department or agency shall furnish that infor-  
9 mation to the Commission.

10 (4) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—

11 (A) ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.—The  
12 Commission may accept, use, and dispose of  
13 gifts, bequests, or devises of services or prop-  
14 erty, both real and personal, for the purpose of  
15 aiding or facilitating the work of the Commis-  
16 sion.

17 (B) DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.—Gifts,  
18 bequests, or devises of money and proceeds  
19 from sales of other property received as gifts,  
20 bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the  
21 Treasury and shall be available for disburse-  
22 ment upon order of the Commission.

23 (5) MAILS.—The Commission may use the  
24 United States mails in the same manner and under

1 the same conditions as other departments and agen-  
2 cies of the United States.

3 (6) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—

4 Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-  
5 trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-  
6 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative  
7 support services necessary for the Commission to  
8 carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

9 (7) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission  
10 is authorized to procure supplies, services, and prop-  
11 erty and to make or enter in contracts, leases, or  
12 other legal agreements; except that any contract,  
13 lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into  
14 by the Commission may not extend beyond the date  
15 of termination of the Commission.

16 (g) REPORTS.—

17 (1) PERIODIC REPORT.—Beginning not later  
18 than the last day of the 3-month period beginning  
19 on the effective date of this Act, and the last day of  
20 each 3-month period thereafter, the Commission  
21 shall submit to Congress and the President a report  
22 on the activities and plans of the Commission.

23 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commission shall  
24 submit to the President and Congress annual re-  
25 ports on the revenue and expenditures of the Com-

1 mission, including a list of each gift, bequest, or de-  
2 vise to the Commission with a value of more than  
3 \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each  
4 gift, bequest, or devise.

5 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2  
6 years after the effective date of this Act, the Com-  
7 mission shall submit to Congress and the President  
8 a report containing specific recommendations for  
9 commemorating the centennial of World War I and  
10 coordinating related activities.

11 (h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT WAIV-  
12 ER.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
13 (5 U.S.C. App.), relating to the termination of advisory  
14 committees, shall not apply to the Commission.

15 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
17 appropriated to the Commission to carry out this  
18 Act \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through  
19 2019.

20 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available  
21 under this subsection shall remain available until the  
22 termination of the Commission as described in sub-  
23 section (k).

24 (j) ANNUAL AUDIT.—For any fiscal year for which  
25 the Commission receives an appropriation of funds, the In-

1   spector General of the Department of the Interior shall  
2   perform an audit of the Commission, shall make the re-  
3   sults of any audit performed available to the public, and  
4   shall transmit such results to the Committee on Oversight  
5   and Government Reform of the House of Representatives  
6   and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
7   mental Affairs of the Senate.

8       (k) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
9   on the earlier of the date that is 30 days after the activi-  
10   ties honoring the centennial observation of World War I  
11   are carried out, or July 28, 2019.

12       (l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect  
13   on January 1, 2010.

        Passed the House of Representatives November 5,  
2009.

Attest:

*Clerk.*





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1ST Session

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